

December 16, 1963

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

Subject: Investigation of the Operational Security
Involving the Transfer of Lee Harvey Oswald
on November 24, 1963.

Sir:

The investigative team which you appointed on November 29, 1963, to make this investigation wishes to submit the following report:

Security was set up in the basement parking area of the City Hall at approximately 9 a.m. on Sunday, November 24, 1963. (See attachments)

The basement was searched and guards placed at all entrances. All unauthorized personnel were removed from the area. Security personnel and news media were then allowed to enter the basement.

An armored truck was ordered and arrived at the Commerce Street ramp at approximately 11:00 a.m. It was backed onto the ramp. The truck did not have sufficient clearance to be taken to the bottom of the ramp. The driver believed the truck might stall due to the weight if it was placed on the incline. It was then decided to leave the truck at the top of the Commerce Street ramp with the rear wheels on the incline and the front wheels on the sidewalk of the Commerce Street side of the City Hall.

The Jail Office corridor outside the Jail Office and the ramp area South of the Southeast corner of the Jail Office was cleared of everyone except security officers.

Plans were changed and Lieutenant R. J. Pierce drove a squad car out of the basement area and out the Main Street ramp. He was accompanied by Sergeants J. A. Putnam and B. J. Maxey. They made a left turn on Main Street, a left turn on Harwood Street and a left turn on Commerce Street. They were intending to lead the armored truck to the County Jail. The armored truck was to be a decoy and the prisoner was to be transferred in a plain car.

Detective Charles Brown drove a plain car on the Commerce Street ramp toward the armored truck. Detective C. M. Dhority then drove another plain car on the ramp behind Detective Charles Brown's car.

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Detective C. M. Dhority was in the process of backing the car he was driving into position adjacent to the Jail Office entrance, when the prisoner was brought out of the Jail Office by Detectives J. R. Leavalle and L. C. Graves, preceded by Captain J. W. Fritz and Lieutenant R. E. Swain. They were followed by Detective L. D. Montgomery. The prisoner had taken a few steps toward the car.

Jack Ruby apparently was standing about 10 or 12 feet from the Southeast corner of the Jail Office, at the bottom of the Main Street Ramp near the pipe railing. Ruby lunged forward from a position between acting Detective W. J. Harrison and Robert S. Huffaker, Jr., a newsmen for KRLD-TV. Ruby approached Lee Harvey Oswald with a revolver extended and fired one shot into Oswald below the rib cage on the left side.

The shot was fired at approximately 11:20 a.m. Ruby was immediately arrested. Lee Harvey Oswald expired at Parkland Hospital at 1:07 p.m.

This group interrogated 123 persons during the course of this investigation. This included 20 patrolmen, 21 reserves, 30 detectives, 19 supervisors, 13 reporters, 11 cameramen and 9 civilians. Most of the officers were assigned to provide security and the reporters and cameramen were in the basement at the time of the transfer. Only one of the civilians interrogated was in the basement at the time and this was Jack Ruby.

We have obtained the names of 10 newsmen that were in the basement that we have not been able to interview. We were able to determine there were approximately 10 members of the news media in the basement whose identity we have not been able to determine. It is believed these are newspaper correspondents representing publications from other areas of the country and even other countries. Time and money made the running down of these people inadvisable at this time, particularly since it is not believed that any of them could throw additional light on this matter.

Numerous side investigations which grew out of this investigation were also made. A separate report covering these incidents will be submitted.

We are convinced that our investigation has established to a reasonable certainty that Jack Leon Ruby entered the basement from the Main Street ramp and that no collusion existed between

him and any police officer or member of the press; that his entrance into the basement at this particular time was the result of a series of unfortunate coincidences which caused a momentary breakdown in the security measures adopted. We are also convinced that Ruby was in the basement for a maximum of 2 minutes.

The following evidence led us to the above conclusion:

I. Exhibit BB

A. Lieutenants Jack Revill and P. G. McCaghren interviewed Mr. Doyal Lane of 6549 Lake Circle, TAl-0560 at the Western Union Telegraph Company located at Main and Pearl Expressway in Dallas, Texas.

1. Mr. Lane is a supervisor for the Western Union Telegraph Company and was on duty at this location on November 24, 1963. At 11:16 a.m. Jack Ruby sent a \$25.00 Money Order to an employee, Karen Bennett, Ft. Worth, Texas and was given a receipt which was stamped with the time (11:16 a.m.)
2. Mr. Lane was shown several photographs and he readily picked the photograph of Jack Ruby from these and stated that he knew Jack Ruby inasmuch as Ruby had sent several telegrams in the past.

II. Exhibit DD

- A. Shows a distance of 339'6" from the Westernmost doorway at the Western Union Office to the center of the ramp leading into the basement of the City Hall from Main Street.
- B. Shows a distance of 99' from the center of the sidewalk down the Main Street Ramp to a line running East from the Southeast corner of the Jail Office.

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- C. Shows a distance of 16' from the Easternmost point of line mentioned in B above to point where Lee Oswald was shot.
- D. Total minimum distance Ruby would have to travel to arrive at spot of shooting from doorway of Western Union equals 454'6".

III. Exhibit BB

- A. Lieutenants Jack Revill and P. G. McCaghren on November 29, 1963, checked the time required to walk from inside the Western Union Office to the spot of the shooting in the basement of the City Hall.
 - 1. It takes 1 minute and 13 seconds to walk this distance to the entrance of the Main Street ramp.
 - 2. It requires another 22 seconds to walk down the ramp from Main Street to the location where Oswald was shot.
 - 3. Total time required was 1 minute and 35 seconds.

IV. Exhibit CC

- A. Lieutenants C. C. Wallace and P. G. McCaghren used a stop watch checking time required to walk from entrance of Western Union to location of Lee Oswald at time of shooting. Time required was 1 minute and 16 seconds.
- B. It requires 10 seconds or more to go from the desk in the Western Union Office to the sidewalk outside the office.
- C. Total time required was 1 minute and twenty-six seconds.

V. Time of Shooting

- A. Patrolmen Willie B. Slack (Attachment 91) called dispatcher for doctor and ambulance.
1. Dispatcher called O'Neal Funeral Home on "Hot Line" for ambulance.
 - (a) Funeral home logged call at 11:21 a.m., November 24, 1963.
 - (b) Funeral Home advised dispatcher to radio Ambulance 605 who was on the air.
2. Dispatcher notified Ambulance 605 at 11:22 a.m. November 24, 1963. (Exhibit BB) (Exhibit EE)

B. Statements by Ruby - Attachment 90.

1. To Lieutenant Jack Revill and F. I. Cornwall that he sent a telegram at 11:16 and did not speak to anyone in the basement prior to the shooting.
2. To Detective D. R. Archer (Attachment 2).

"At this time P. T. Dean asked the suspect, Ruby, 'Jack, how did you get in the basement?' Ruby replied, 'You guys'll never believe this, but a little girl who works for me had called and asked that I send her some money to Ft. Worth. I had left my apartment, gone to Western Union at Main and the Expressway, and wired her \$25.00. I left there and noticed the crowd around the City Hall. I walked up that way, thinking I might get a chance to see Oswald. As I reached the ramp that leads to the basement, I noticed Sam Pierce pull up from the ramp in a black car. The officer standing there turned to either answer a question or say something to Sam. - I don't know. As he did this, I walked down the ramp'."

Mr. Forrest Sorrells of the U. S. Secret Service was believed to be present at the time this statement was made to Sergeant Dean.

3. To Detective B. S. Clardy (Attachment 17).
"When asked why he shot Lee Oswald, Ruby replied, 'Somebody had to do it, Ya'll couldn't'. He said it was a spur of the moment thing and it was a million to one chance that he got down there at the actual time Oswald was brought down."
4. To Sergeant P. T. Dean (Attachment 27).
"After Mr. Sorrells interrogated the subject I questioned Ruby as to how he had entered the basement and the length of time he had been there. Ruby then stated to me in the presence of Mr. Sorrells that he had entered the basement through the ramp entering on Main Street. He further stated that he would estimate his total time as about 3 minutes before the detectives brought Oswald into his view, then he immediately shot him (Oswald)."
5. To Detective T. D. McMillon (Attachment 74).
"We talked to him when we got to the fifth floor. On the fifth floor Ruby was asked how he got to the basement. He replied that he came from the Western Union Office where he wired a girl in Ft. Worth some money. He said he saw Ric Pierce drive out of the basement. He walked past the policeman standing there. He said a policeman hollered at him, but he ducked his head and kept going. He said that he knew he could always act like a reporter. He also said, 'Ya'll wont believe this, but I didn't have this planned. I couldn't have timed it so perfect.' He said just as he got there, Oswald was coming out."
6. To Patrolman W. J. Harrison (Attachment 45)
"You all know me, I'm Jack Ruby'. One officer asked him why he did it, and he answered 'I hope I killed the S.O.B.'"

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VI. Car driven wrong way up Main Street Ramp.

- A. Lieutenant R. S. Pierce, Sergeant Putnam and Sergeant Maxey were in car. (Attachments 85, 86 and 69.)
 - 1. All statements state shooting occurred between time car left Main Street Ramp and arrival at Commerce Street Ramp.
- B. Lieutenants C. C. Wallace and P. G. McCaghren interviewed Mr. Fritz Kuler of KRLD-TV. (Attachment 62) Mr. Kuler stated the video tape was continuous. The time recorded on the video machine of elapsed time from passage of Lieutenant Pierce's car in front of the TV camera until the sound of the shot was 56 seconds. This was checked twice.

VII. Officer R. E. Vaughn - Attachment 102.

- A. Assigned to Main Street Ramp of City Hall.
- B. Instructed by Sergeant P. T. Dean to guard the North Ramp.
- C. Officer Vaughn questioned several people and admitted a city mechanic and 1 reporter.
- D. Stepped out into Main Street to stop traffic and allow Lieutenant Pierce to make left turn onto Main Street.
- E. Saw former Officer N. J. Daniels at Main Street Ramp.
- F. Saw former shine-boy from locker room, Wilbert Ray Jones at Main Street Ramp.
- G. Polygraph test showed truthful answers on all pertinent questions.

VIII. Statement of N. J. Daniels - Attachment 23.

- A. Saw man enter Main Street Ramp.

B. Gave description of man.

C. Said man entered between himself and Officer Vaughn and the officer looked at him but did not stop him.

D. Polygraph test showed untruthfulness on all pertinent questions that were answered.

IX. Statement of Wilbert Ray Jones - Attachment 57

Had gone to parking lot at Commerce and Harwood at time of shot.

X. Statement of Reserve Officer W. J. Newman - Attachment 79.

Reserve Officer Newman saw someone running down the Main Street Ramp but could not definitely say the time. He believes it was about 1 minute before the shooting.

XI. Statement of Reserve Officer Sergeant Kenneth Croy - Attachment 21.

This officer gives description of man he believes to have been Jack Ruby, that was at foot of Main Street Ramp a while before the shooting. (Investigating Officers have determined that Robert Huffaker, KRLD-TV newsman was in this area at the time, and his clothes were identical to the clothing described by this officer.)

XII. Statements of Detectives B. L. Beatty and J. D. Hutchinson - Attachments 4 and 52.

These two detectives were stationed at the double doors leading into the City Hall from the basement parking area for more than 10 minutes before the shooting. They both knew Jack Ruby and neither saw him in the basement prior to the shooting. They say Ruby

did not enter the basement area from the double doors from the Jail Office of the Police and Courts Building.

- XIII. Statements of Sergeant Putnam, Reserve Captain Arnett and Reserve Lieutenant McCoy. - Attachments 86, 3 and 72.

These officers statements are regarding the search of the basement parking area and ramps and screening of personnel in area.

- XIV. Newspaper article in Dallas Times Herald, Sunday, December 8, 1963. Statements of Darwin Payne, David Hughes and Sergeant P. T. Dean. - Attachments 82A, 50A and 27.

The article alleged that a Dallas Police Officer saw Jack Ruby as he came down the Main Street Ramp.

Sergeant Dean denied the allegation and the statements of the reporters and their notes show a presumption of the fact not confirmed by the evidence.

- XV. Statement of Officer W. J. Harrison - Attachments 45 and 84-B.

A. Jack Ruby came from this officer's left side when he plunged forward to shoot Oswald.

Polygraph test by Detective P. L. Bentley shows that Officer Harrison did not see Ruby prior to the exit of Oswald from the Jail Office and did not recognise Ruby until instant shot was fired.

- XVI. Security check of newsmen who entered the basement.

All members of the press who were interviewed stated their credentials were checked upon entering the basement, or that they knew the officers personally that admitted them to the basement.

XVII. Use of Press Pass by Jack Ruby.

- A. Statement by Eva Grant that she believed her brother had a Press Pass. See Exhibit 39-A.
- B. Statement by Mr. Thad Ricks (Attachment 90) that no State Fair Pass was issued to Ruby.
- C. Negative report from all officers and news media regarding seeing Ruby with a Press Pass.
- D. An introductory card was found in Ruby's automobile glove compartment from former Judge Glen Byrd introducing the bearer as Jack Ruby and expressing appreciation for any help given bearer. (In Property Room)

XVIII. Conclusion:

- A. This investigative team believes that Jack Ruby entered the Main Street ramp as the car driven by Lieutenant Ric Pierce was leaving the basement. Patrolman R. E. Vaughn was the only officer guarding the Main Street ramp at this time, and he had stepped into Main Street to halt traffic in order that Lieutenant Pierce could make a left turn onto Main Street.
- B. We also feel it should be noted that no officer interviewed knew the time that Oswald was to be brought to the basement. The car that was to be used for the transfer was still in process of backing into position when Oswald was led from the Jail Office (Attachments 37 and 77)
- C. The still pictures (Attachments 6-A and 53-A) show many of the detectives with their eyes on Oswald at the moment of the shooting, and not watching the viewers who were across the North Ramp and on the East side of the ramp

The bright lights illuminating area for the TV cameras were centered on the area adjacent to the Jail Office, making it difficult for the officers who were facing the lights and cameras to observe any movements originating from the Northeast side of the ramp.

- D. These officers had been instructed to form two lines from the Jail Office door to the vehicle to be used for the transfer and to close in behind the prisoner. (See Attachments 4, 16, 18, 41, 52, 66, 87 and 104)
- E. Exhibits 24-A, 43-A, GG & HH are sound films taken from video tape of the shooting.
- F. Exhibit 84 is a silent film of the shooting.

The other members of this Unit, Lieutenants C. C. Wallace, Jack Revill, F. I. Cornwall, P. G. McCaghren and Detective H. M. Hart concur with the statements in this report.

Respectfully,

J. H. Sawyer
J. H. Sawyer

Inspector of Police

W. R. Westbrook

W. R. Westbrook
Captain of Police

O. A. Jones

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